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Social statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-sixth session. It summarizes the findings of *The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*, which reviews and analyses the capacity of countries to report gender statistics to the international statistical system. The report also assesses progress made in the provision of gender statistics in the past 30 years. Stark disparities are identified in national statistical capacity to report such statistics. The report proposes actions and strategies for improving gender statistics worldwide. Points for discussion by the Commission are contained in paragraph 14.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-sixth session,[1] reviews and analyses the current availability of data and assesses progress made in the provision of gender statistics in the past 30 years. It highlights, among other things, the importance of building and sustaining national statistical capacity to improve gender statistics. The report draws from the recent publication, *The World's Women: Progress in Statistics*, produced by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

2. The focus is on the reporting of statistics on women and men by countries to the international statistical system. The main sources of data used to analyse countries' ability to produce and report information on gender included the Statistics Division of the Secretariat; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics; the International Labour Office; and the World Health Organization with inputs from the United Nations regional commissions.

II. Need for gender statistics

3. The Commission on the Status of Women, in its 10-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, noted that the activities for the advancement of women had been limited partly by the lack of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex and age and, in many areas, inadequate methods for assessing progress.[2] The timely availability of reliable statistics on the situation of women and men is critical for Governments to successfully measure progress or lack thereof in the quest for equalization of opportunities between women and men, girls and boys.

4. In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women called in its Beijing Declaration for a more comprehensive approach that incorporated a gender perspective into national statistical systems to ensure that gender statistics adequately demonstrated the particular and often different experiences of women and men in society.[3]

5. It is against this background that *The World's Women 2005* analyses the extent to which the growing demand for gender statistics is being met by Governments. This is done by assessing national statistical capacity to report gender statistics to the international statistical system. It looks at the extent to which official national statistics, as differentiated from internationally prepared estimates, are available in various areas of concern. By focusing on the national reporting of gender statistics, *The World's Women 2005* provides stakeholders with information to assess progress, identify gaps and design strategies to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics needed at the national level for monitoring national development and internationally agreed goals pertaining to gender concerns.

III. National capacity to report statistics

6. In general, the analysis shows a sharp disparity in reporting between geographic regions and across development groups that are reflective of the differences in overall national statistical capacity. A contrast is apparent with, at the

one end, countries that have a strong capacity to collect, analyse and report the requisite statistics disaggregated by sex and age, and at the other, those whose statistical capacity is limited, and who therefore do not collect and report timely gender statistics at regular intervals. A number of countries are in between these extremes, with moderate statistical capacity.

7. The overall reporting of gender statistics on various topics is strongest in Europe, followed by North and South America. Moderate levels of reporting are evident in Oceania and for some topics in Asia. Africa shows the weakest capacity to report the requisite information. The contrasts in reporting, however, are greatest among development groups. The least developed countries[4] are the most lacking in statistical capacity and the ability to report gender statistics in all areas reviewed by *The World's Women 2005*.

8. For example, the report shows that virtually all countries in the developed regions conducted a population census between 1995 and 2004 and reported vital statistics on births and deaths from a civil registration system with 90 per cent or better coverage. Most countries in the less developed regions, excluding the least developed countries, also conducted a census during the same period. However, only about half reported vital statistics from civil registration systems with 90 per cent or better coverage. Among the least developed countries, only 34 out of 50 conducted a population census, and just 2 reported vital statistics from a sound civil registration system.

IV. Status of reporting of specific gender statistics

9. The areas covered include population, households and families; health; education; work; violence against women; and poverty, power and decision-making and human rights. A total of 204 countries and areas are included in the review. The tables in the annex to the present report give the number of countries or areas in each geographic region and development group that reported statistics between 1995 and 2003.

(a) *Population, households and families*. Compared to the number of countries reporting total population, a smaller number reported the information by sex and sex and age. Of the 154 countries or areas in the more developed regions and the less developed regions, excluding the least developed countries, 134 reported statistics on population by sex and age at least once during the period 1995-2003. Among the least developed countries, 17 out of 50 countries reported such statistics. Africa was the region with the lowest number of countries, 23 out of 55, reporting statistics on population by sex and age at least once during this period. The report also analyses the national reporting of births, marriages, divorces and households. While international migration is not included in the analysis, it is recognized that migration is increasing in importance and needs to be considered in future reporting and analyses;

(b) *Health*. The health status of a population is, ironically, often reflected and measured by information about deaths. The analysis shows that during the period 1995-2003 basic statistics such as the number of deaths of women and men and girls and boys were not reported for many countries and areas. Of 204 countries and areas about 121 and 109, respectively, reported the number of deaths by sex and age and number of deaths by cause, sex and age at least once between 1995 and

2003. While total infant deaths were reported by 143 countries or areas, only 114 reported infant deaths by sex. Almost all countries in the more developed regions reported the number of deaths by cause, sex and age at least once during the period under consideration. In contrast, 3 out of 50 least developed countries reported such statistics on deaths and 5 out of 55 countries in Africa reported such information. The reporting of emerging health concerns such as HIV/AIDS as a cause of death improved during the period 1995-2000. About 68 countries or areas reported deaths due to AIDS by sex and age in 2000 compared with 38 in 1995. With respect to disability statistics, at least 80 countries collected disability data in the 1990s and more than 70 countries included a question on disability during the 2000 round of population censuses. Since then, initiatives have been mounted to develop and collect internationally comparable disability statistics through censuses and surveys;

(c) *Education*. Since 1995 most countries have been able to report the number of students enrolled in primary and secondary school, but less than a quarter have reported school attendance. Of 204 countries and areas, 138 and 101, respectively, reported, at least once, the number of girls and boys, by age, enrolled in primary and secondary school between 1998 and 2001, while only about 40 countries or areas reported school attendance by sex and age. Analysis by region revealed that most of the countries in each region were able to provide enrolment data by sex for primary and secondary education. There were, however, important differences in the reporting of census data on school attendance by sex and age among geographic regions and across development groups. A greater number of countries in Europe and Asia reported school attendance by sex and age, while this was not the case in Oceania and Africa. In the case of development groups, greater reporting of census data on school attendance was apparent among countries in more developed regions and the lowest among the least developed countries;

(d) *Work*. Worldwide availability of statistics on economic activity, employment and unemployment is still not very satisfactory. About 125 of 204 countries or areas provided data on the economically active population by sex and 123 of those further disaggregated the data by age. The ability to report varied greatly according to geographic regions, with Africa the least able to report any data related to work. More than half of the countries in Europe, Asia, North America and South America reported data by sex on the economically active, employed and unemployed population at least once between 1995 and 2004. When, however, more detailed breakdowns of data were requested, the number of countries reporting such data dropped. This is the case for wage employment by sex and major industry group, the specific data needed for calculating the millennium development goal indicator, "share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector". Only 74 of the 204 countries provided such data at least once in the past nine years. Time-use studies helped to better capture data on women's paid and unpaid work. Since 1995, at least 67 countries carried out time-use surveys. This includes 33 countries in the less developed regions;

(e) *Violence against women*. There is a general lack of reliable data on the various forms of violence against women. It should be noted, however, that since 1995 there has been some progress in the development of methodology and procedures for data collection on violence against women, in particular intimate partner violence. Since then, initiatives have been mounted to develop and collect internationally comparable statistics on violence against women through surveys. At least 68 countries have conducted such surveys;

(f) *Poverty, power and decision-making and human rights.* In many countries, mainstream statistical agencies and programmes do not routinely collect, compile and disseminate gender statistics under such topics as poverty, power and decision-making and human rights. Regular and sustained collection and reporting of data in the above-mentioned areas has been constrained by a lack of statistical capacity and poorly developed concepts and methodologies, which have contributed to the limited use of existing data to examine gender-based differences in these areas.

10. A review of three periods, 1975-1984, 1985-1994 and 1995-2003, indicates that progress in reporting of official national statistics was minimal. The assessment of progress for the most recent period was partly inconclusive owing to delays in national reporting of the requisite statistics. Considering the number of countries or areas that reported sex and age disaggregated statistics for at least one year and for at least five years in each of the above-mentioned time periods, results showed that fewer countries were able to report frequently (for at least 5 out of the 10 years) their annual data by sex and age. However, frequent reporting of annual data on the economically active population by sex and age improved over the three time periods. *The World's Women 2005* also notes that more countries now have data on violence against women, the participation of women and men in the informal sector and time use for women and men. Notwithstanding some improvements in data collection in these areas, the studies are mainly ad hoc and not mainstreamed into the regular national statistical work programmes.

V. Factors contributing to the paucity of gender statistics

11. The general lack of data to address gender issues and the differences in availability of such data across regions and across topics is partly a reflection of the following three factors:

(a) Inadequate statistical capacity;

(b) Lack of gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems;

(c) Inadequate concepts and methods used in collecting and, to some extent, analysing gender statistics.

VI. Actions and strategies to improve gender statistics

12. ***The World's Women 2005*** **identifies three key actions necessary for improving gender statistics and proposes strategies for implementing each action. The actions are: strengthening national statistical capacity, gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems and development of appropriate concepts and methods for collecting and analysing gender statistics:**

(a) To strengthen national statistical capacity the following strategies should be adopted or implemented:

(i) *Ensuring sustained commitment at the highest levels of government to strengthen statistical systems.* Governments should ensure that statistics be given due priority. For example, in order to have a coordinated approach to the production of a core set of socio-economic statistics required for

policy formulation and planning, Governments should strive, to the extent possible, to support the implementation of at least one population and housing census every 10 years; to establish and maintain a civil registration and vital statistics system; and to ensure the sustainability of an integrated national sample survey programme;

(ii) *Building capacity in data presentation*. Producers of gender statistics need to be more proactive in making the value of gender statistics visible to Governments, the general public and other stakeholders by using more user-friendly ways of presenting and disseminating data in different formats. This could help maximize the use of data and in the process create a demand for statistics that would strengthen the claim of statistical offices on the national budget;

(iii) *Developing human resources in national statistical systems*. Women and men should be given the same opportunities for training and career development within the national statistical system;

(b) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into the national statistical system should encompass all aspects of the production of statistics, from the development of concepts, methods of data collection, analysis and dissemination of results. The following, are among the strategies that could contribute to attaining the above-mentioned goal:

(i) *Supporting gender statistics units*. National statistical offices could benefit from the establishment and retention of gender statistics units. The units could play a catalytic role in initiating and monitoring the process of gender mainstreaming in the national statistical systems;

(ii) *Fostering dialogue between producers and users of gender statistics*. The dialogue between the national statistical office and women's groups could, for instance, increase the capacity of statisticians to identify and understand gender issues and to present data in formats that better address users' needs. User involvement could be beneficial to national statistical offices in gathering support for collecting statistics in new areas. The dialogue could also contribute to the building and sustenance of stakeholders' interest in the production and dissemination of statistics and the development of a national statistical capacity. It could also enable women's groups and gender advocates to understand, gain access to and use gender statistics more effectively;

(iii) *Using administrative data sources*. These sources are in most cases underutilized. However, with the introduction of appropriate changes in the methods of data collection and analysis, the resulting statistics could be used in gender analysis;

(c) Developing and improving concepts and methods in gender statistics is essential for the improvement of gender statistics both in quality and quantity. International and regional organizations and specialized agencies, national statistical offices and other research institutions need to work together to develop and revise concepts, definitions and methodologies for use in data collection in areas where such standards and methods are lacking.

13. **To improve the lives of both women and men, in the long run, statistical systems and budgets at the national as well as international level must bring about the sustained and institutionalized change needed to ensure the availability of quality gender statistics.**

VII. Points for discussion

14. **The Commission may wish to consider the issues outlined in the present report together with information contained in the annex tables. In addition, the Commission may wish to discuss and comment on the national actions and strategies proposed in paragraphs 12 and 13, aimed at improving the availability of gender statistics worldwide.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 4* (E/2005/24), chap. I, sect. B.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap I, sect. D, resolution 49/4, operative paragraph 5.

[3] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, paras. 206-209.

[4] Countries included in the "least developed countries" category are those established by the Economic and Social Council. They numbered 50 in December 2005. See http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrlls/ldc/list.htm.

Annex

Statistical tables

Table 1.A
Number of countries or areas that reported data on selected demographic characteristics, 1995-2003

	Geographic region							*Development group*		
	World	*Africa*	*North America*	*South America*	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Oceania*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*[a]	*Least developed countries*
All countries or areas	204	55	27	13	50	42	17	47	107	50
Population										
Total, at least once	189	43	27	13	47	42	17	47	103	39
By sex, at least once	179	35	27	13	47	41	16	46	100	33
By sex and age, at least once	151	23	26	11	43	39	9	44	90	17
By sex and age, for at least five years	83	8	12	6	21	32	4	37	41	5
Births										
Total, at least once	153	22	25	11	39	42	14	47	91	15
From civil registration system[b]	111	9	19	6	26	42	9	47	62	2
Total, for at least five years	124	13	22	10	32	39	8	44	76	4
By sex, at least once	120	14	21	9	30	40	6	45	69	6
By age of mother, at least once	113	8	22	10	27	38	8	43	68	2
Marriages										
Total, at least once	134	12	25	10	36	42	9	47	81	6
Total, for at least five years	107	7	20	8	28	39	5	44	63	0
First marriages by age of bride and groom, at least once	85	5	12	6	21	38	3	42	43	0
By previous marital status, at least once	84	4	15	6	19	36	4	40	44	0
Divorces										
Total, at least once	119	11	25	7	32	39	5	44	71	4
Total, for at least five years	94	5	18	6	25	36	4	40	54	0
By number of dependent children, at least once	64	3	8	2	17	32	2	36	28	0
By length of marriage, at least once	78	4	12	6	20	33	3	37	41	0
Households										
Total, for at least one year	59	5	5	3	22	23	1	27	27	5
By sex and age of head, at least once	42	3	5	1	11	21	1	25	15	2
By sex and age of head and size of household, at least once	39	1	5	1	10	21	1	25	14	0

Source: Prepared by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, based on data from the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system (November 2004).

[a] Excluding the least developed countries.

[b] Reported births at least once from a civil registration system with 90 per cent or better coverage of births.

Table 1.B

Percentage of the world and regional populations in countries or areas that reported data on selected demographic characteristics, 1995-2003

	Geographic region							*Development group*		
	World	*Africa*	*North America*	*South America*	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Oceania*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*[a]	*Least developed countries*
All countries or areas	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Population										
Total, at least once	98	87	100	100	99	100	100	100	99	85
By sex, at least once	97	80	100	100	99	100	100	100	99	79
By sex and age, at least once	90	59	100	98	93	99	79	99	95	38
By sex and age, for at least five years	66	18	73	68	74	76	75	85	69	16
Births										
Total, at least once	68	43	97	98	60	100	98	100	63	41
From civil registration system[b]	30	18	74	23	13	100	79	100	15	0.1
Total, for at least five years	60	26	95	96	52	99	77	99	58	3
By sex, at least once	40	28	96	88	19	99	76	99	29	6
By age of mother, at least once	39	20	97	96	18	98	76	99	28	0
Marriages										
Total, at least once	64	31	97	86	58	100	80	100	59	30
Total, for at least five years	35	14	95	76	15	99	75	99	23	0
First marriages by age of bride and groom, at least once	27	15	34	59	11	100	75	76	18	0
By previous marital status, at least once	24	15	15	66	11	78	75	63	16	0
Divorces										
Total, at least once	59	27	97	66	51	100	76	100	55	11
Total, for at least five years	27	9	36	61	12	98	75	75	18	0
By number of dependent children, at least once	22	14	29	53	9	84	74	66	14	0
By length of marriage, at least once	23	15	32	66	9	71	75	59	16	0
Households										
Total, for at least one year	43	12	85	51	46	34	12	58	45	7
By sex and age of head, at least once	20	6	85	49	10	31	12	56	12	6
By sex and age of head and size of household, at least once	19	0	85	49	9	31	12	56	12	0

Source: Prepared by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, based on data from the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system (November 2004).

[a] Excluding the least developed countries.

[b] Reported births at least once from a civil registration system with 90 per cent or better coverage of births.

Table 2.A
Number of countries or areas that reported selected mortality statistics, 1995-2003

	Geographic region							*Development group*		
	World	*Africa*	*North America*	*South America*	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Oceania*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*[a]	*Least developed countries*
All countries or areas	204	55	27	13	50	42	17	47	107	50
Deaths										
Total, at least once	155	22	25	13	40	42	13	47	94	14
By sex, at least once	134	18	22	12	33	42	7	47	78	9
By sex and age, at least once	121	15	21	11	28	40	6	45	71	5
By sex and age, for at least five years	88	4	15	8	20	36	5	41	46	1
Infant deaths										
Total, at least once	143	19	24	11	35	41	13	46	85	12
By sex, at least once	114	12	20	9	28	39	6	44	63	7
By sex, for at least five years	81	5	13	6	22	31	4	36	44	1
Deaths by cause										
Total, at least once	110	5	22	10	27	39	7	44	63	3
By sex, at least once	110	5	22	10	27	39	7	44	63	3
By sex and age, at least once	109	5	22	10	26	39	7	44	62	3
By sex and age, for at least five years	87	3	16	9	18	37	4	42	44	1

Sources: Prepared by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs: for deaths and infant deaths, based on data from the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system (November 2004); for deaths by cause, based on data from the World Health Organization, *WHO Mortality Database* (December 2004).

[a] Excluding the least developed countries.

Table 2.B

Percentage of the world and regional populations in countries or areas that reported selected mortality statistics, 1995-2003

	Geographic region							*Development group*		
	World	*Africa*	*North America*	*South America*	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Oceania*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*[a]	*Least developed countries*
All countries or areas	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Deaths										
Total, at least once	69	46	97	100	61	100	98	100	64	47
By sex, at least once	63	35	96	98	55	100	76	100	61	15
By sex and age, at least once	61	33	96	98	52	100	76	100	58	13
By sex and age, for at least five years	33	12	94	88	10	98	75	99	19	0
Infant deaths										
Total, at least once	46	40	97	98	25	100	98	100	32	41
By sex, at least once	40	35	96	88	17	99	76	99	27	18
By sex, for at least five years	28	16	94	78	10	60	75	76	18	0
Deaths by cause										
Total, at least once	59	16	98	97	51	100	78	100	56	1
By sex, at least once	59	16	98	97	51	100	78	100	56	1
By sex and age, at least once	59	16	98	97	51	100	78	100	56	1
By sex and age, for at least five years	53	10	96	97	43	98	77	99	49	0

Sources: Prepared by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs: for deaths and infant deaths, based on data from the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system (November 2004); for deaths by cause, based on data from the World Health Organization, *WHO Mortality Database* (December 2004).

[a] Excluding the least developed countries.

Table 3.A
Number of countries or areas that reported selected education statistics, 1995-2003

	Geographic region							*Development group*		
	World	*Africa*	*North America*	*South America*	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Oceania*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*[a]	*Least developed countries*
All countries or areas	204	55	27	13	50	42	17	47	107	50
Access to educational services										
Enrolment in primary education[b]										
Total, at least once	189	53	25	13	47	40	11	45	96	48
By sex, at least once	187	52	25	13	46	40	11	45	95	47
By sex and age, at least once[c]	138	39	16	10	33	34	6	39	65	34
By sex, for at least three years	155	41	17	10	41	39	7	44	76	35
Enrolment in secondary education[b]										
Total, at least once	185	50	24	13	47	40	11	45	94	46
By sex, at least once	182	50	24	13	45	40	10	45	92	45
By sex and age, at least once[c]	101	18	13	8	27	30	5	32	49	20
By sex, for at least three years	143	35	15	11	38	38	6	43	69	31
Vocational, by sex, for at least three years	104	20	9	6	30	35	4	38	47	19
Enrolment in tertiary education[b]										
Total, at least once	166	48	16	12	42	39	9	44	82	40
By sex, at least once	154	45	14	9	40	39	7	44	73	37
By sex, for at least three years	104	20	10	5	30	35	4	40	47	17
By sex and field of study, for at least three years	62	12	3	1	15	29	2	33	19	10
School attendance										
Total	44	4	7	4	11	17	1	19	21	4
By sex	41	4	4	4	11	17	1	19	18	4
By sex and age	40	3	4	4	11	17	1	19	18	3
Outcomes of educational experience										
Literacy										
Total	82	15	8	7	30	16	6	16	53	13
By sex	81	15	8	7	30	16	5	16	53	12
By sex and age	77	14	7	7	29	16	4	16	49	12
Educational attainment										
Total	80	12	10	3	25	25	5	29	42	9
By sex	77	12	8	3	25	25	4	29	39	9
By sex and age	71	9	6	3	24	25	4	29	34	8

Sources: Prepared by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, based on enrolment data (November 2004) and literacy data (April 2005) provided by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics excluding Institute estimates; and on data from the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system (November 2004).

[a] Excluding the least developed countries.

[b] Reported data for the academic years 1995/96 to 2001/02 (excluding the academic year 1997/98).

[c] Reported data at least once for the academic years 1998/99 to 2001/02.

Table 3.B

Percentage of the world and regional populations in countries or areas that reported selected education statistics, 1995-2003

	Geographic region							*Development group*		
	World	*Africa*	*North America*	*South America*	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Oceania*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*[a]	*Least developed countries*
All countries or areas	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Access to educational services										
Enrolment in primary education[b]										
Total, at least once	99	99	99	100	99	99	94	100	99	99
By sex, at least once	99	99	99	100	99	99	94	100	99	99
By sex and age, at least once[c]	61	61	97	77	53	71	93	82	52	78
By sex, for at least three years	92	66	94	98	96	99	93	100	92	83
Enrolment in secondary education[b]										
Total, at least once	96	78	98	100	99	99	94	100	96	91
By sex, at least once	96	78	98	100	98	99	94	100	96	91
By sex and age, at least once[c]	30	28	66	85	13	66	31	64	16	58
By sex, for at least three years	85	59	94	100	90	79	93	87	86	77
Vocational, by sex, for at least three years	48	32	29	28	49	78	92	60	44	53
Enrolment in tertiary education[b]										
Total, at least once	93	78	97	100	94	99	94	100	92	86
By sex, at least once	69	71	94	87	58	99	93	100	59	78
By sex, for at least three years	59	36	90	69	55	79	92	87	52	51
By sex and field of study, for at least three years	37	22	27	12	39	60	74	52	32	42
School attendance										
Total	14	4	86	22	4	25	0	42	8	5
By sex	14	4	85	22	4	25	0	42	7	5
By sex and age	14	2	85	22	4	25	0	42	7	3
Outcomes of educational experience										
Literacy										
Total	65	34	27	78	80	40	22	24	83	22
By sex	65	34	27	78	80	40	21	24	83	22
By sex and age	64	32	26	78	80	40	21	24	82	22
Educational attainment										
Total	51	31	91	9	54	53	75	61	54	19
By sex	50	31	70	9	54	53	75	61	51	19
By sex and age	48	23	69	9	53	53	75	61	49	17

Sources: Prepared by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, based on enrolment data (November 2004) and literacy data (April 2005) provided by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics excluding Institute estimates; and on data from the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system (November 2004).

[a] Excluding the least developed countries.

[b] Reported data for the academic years 1995/96 to 2001/02 (excluding the academic year 1997/98).

[c] Reported data at least once for the academic years 1998/99 to 2001/02.

Table 4.A

Number of countries or areas that reported data[a] on selected economic characteristics, 1995-2003

	Geographic region							*Development group*		
	World	*Africa*	*North America*	*South America*	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Oceania*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*[b]	*Least developed countries*
All countries or areas	**204**	**55**	**27**	**13**	**50**	**42**	**17**	**47**	**107**	**50**
Economically active population										
Total, at least once	127	19	17	11	34	38	8	43	70	14
By sex, at least once	125	18	17	11	34	37	8	42	70	13
By sex and age, at least once	123	18	17	11	34	37	6	42	69	12
By sex and age, for at least five years	59	1	10	6	12	28	2	33	26	0
Unemployed population										
Total, at least once	115	13	19	12	31	35	5	40	66	9
By sex, at least once	114	12	19	12	31	35	5	40	65	9
By sex and age, at least once	96	8	15	9	27	34	3	39	51	6
By sex and age, for at least five years	72	2	14	9	14	31	2	36	36	0
Employed population by occupation										
Total, at least once	108	10	16	10	32	33	7	38	60	10
By sex, at least once	105	9	15	10	32	33	6	38	58	9
By sex, for at least five years	68	1	13	8	15	29	2	34	34	0
Employed population by status in employment										
Total, at least once	106	15	16	9	28	33	5	38	59	9
By sex, at least once	104	13	16	9	28	33	5	38	57	9
By sex, for at least five years	64	1	12	6	14	29	2	34	30	0

Sources: Prepared by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, based on data from the International Labour Office LABORSTA database (March 2005) and data from the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system (November 2004).

[a] From labour force surveys, household surveys, population censuses or labour-related establishment surveys.

[b] Excluding the least developed countries.

Table 4.B

Percentage of the world and regional populations in countries or areas that reported data[a] on selected economic characteristics, 1995-2003

	Geographic region							*Development group*		
	World	*Africa*	*North America*	*South America*	*Asia*	*Europe*	*Oceania*	*More developed regions*	*Less developed regions*[b]	*Least developed countries*
All countries or areas	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Economically active population										
Total, at least once	50	47	94	98	31	99	96	100	36	50
By sex, at least once	50	47	94	98	31	98	96	99	36	50
By sex and age, at least once	50	47	94	98	31	98	95	99	36	50
By sex and age, for at least five years	32	4	90	78	15	85	74	91	20	0
Unemployed population										
Total, at least once	66	33	93	100	60	98	92	99	61	36
By sex, at least once	66	32	93	100	60	98	92	99	61	36
By sex and age, at least once	45	22	91	91	30	97	75	98	33	27
By sex and age, for at least five years	36	12	91	91	16	96	74	97	24	0
Employed population by occupation										
Total, at least once	42	24	91	98	25	88	92	93	29	36
By sex, at least once	42	23	90	98	25	88	75	93	29	35
By sex, for at least five years	34	8	89	95	16	87	74	92	23	0
Employed population by status in employment										
Total, at least once	46	32	93	91	29	88	76	93	34	38
By sex, at least once	45	27	93	91	29	88	76	93	34	33
By sex, for at least five years	30	8	89	40	16	85	74	91	18	0

Sources: Prepared by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, based on data from the International Labour Office LABORSTA database (March 2005) and data from the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* system (November 2004).

[a] From labour force surveys, household surveys, population censuses or labour-related establishment surveys.

[b] Excluding the least developed countries.